



DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

CONTACT: OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
(916) 657-7202
(916) 657-8639 - FAX

March 4, 1999

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

99-05

California Highway Patrol Wins Grant to Address Aggressive Driving

SACRAMENTO - California Highway Patrol (CHP) officials announced today that they have been awarded a grant, from the State Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), to address aggressive driving issues with a statewide enforcement and public awareness campaign.

The grant funds a statewide public awareness campaign and a special enforcement effort in four CHP divisions where aggressive driving has been identified as an issue. The divisions include Golden Gate, covering the nine bay-area counties; Valley which reaches from Stockton to Chico and Woodland to Tahoe; Southern division which covers all of L.A. County; and Border, covering Orange, Imperial and San Diego Counties. The special enforcement effort begins May 1, 1999, and is complimented by the public awareness campaign which kicks off June 1, 1999.

During the special enforcement effort, road patrol officers will target drivers who speed, tailgate, drive or pass on the shoulder, make unsafe lane changes, or display other aggressive behaviors or habits. The public awareness campaign will incorporate a variety of elements, including billboards, public service announcements and education to reacquaint motorists of the importance of following the rules of the road.

The CHP recognizes that California motorists are commuting further and longer than ever before, and that increased time behind the wheel, in congested traffic, is leading

- M O R E -

CHP
2-2-2

motorists to forget the rules of the road and be less courteous. “We’ve noticed an increase in what we consider to be aggressive or rude driving,” says CHP Commissioner Spike Helmick. “While the roads and highways may be more congested, and drivers’ frustration may increase, it’s not an excuse to violate the law or disregard the safety of other motorists. Our goal with this campaign is to remind motorists of the rules of the road and the benefits of courteous driving.”

#

Media Note: All media inquiries regarding this program are being fielded by the CHP Office of Public Affairs in Sacramento. For information after hours, please contact Margaret Magner by page at (916) 535-4887, or Nanci Kramer by page at (916) 551-5932.